MATWATCH

213 Pine Hills Ave. Auburn Al 36830

JANUARY 22-28 ROYAL RUMBLE EDITION VOL. 2, NO. 31

At Royal Rumble

NO BULL OF THE WOODS, NO PIPER; HOGAN GOES OVER AGAIN IN ORLANDO BATTLE

ORLANDO --- As if you needed to be reminded who the megastar of the World Wrestling Federation is, now and forever, Hulk Hogan eliminated Curt Hennig to win the third annual ROYAL RUMBLE in 59:56 before 18,906 at the Orlando Arena Sunday. The RUMBLE featured a confrontation which sets up a potential Hogan-Ultimate Warrior matchup at WRESTLEMANIA VI and a remarkable 47-minute endurance performance by Ted DiBiase.

ORDER OF ENTRIES: 1. Ted DiBiase. 2. Koko B. Ware. 3. Marty Jannetty. 4. Jake Roberts. 5. Randy Savage. 6. Roddy Piper. 7. Warlord. 8. Bret Hart. 9. Bad News Brown. 10. Dusty Rhodes. 11. Andre the Giant. 12. Terry Taylor. 13. Demolition Ax. 14. Haku. 15. Demolition Smash. 16. Akeem. 17. Jimmy Snuka. 18. Dino Bravo. 19. Earthquake Tenta. 20. Jim Neidhart. 21. 21. Ultimate Warrior. 22. Rick Martel. 23. Tito Santana. 24. Honky Tonk Man. 25. Hulk Hogan. 26. Sean Michaels. 27. Barbarian. 28. Rick Rude. 29. Hercules. 30. Curt Hennig.

ORDER OF ELIMINATION: 1. Ware. 2. Jannetty. 3. Roberts. 4. Savage. 5. Warlord. 6. Brown. 7. Piper. 8. Taylor. 9. Andre. 10. Hart. 11. Akeem. 12. Rhodes. 13. Ax. 14. Tenta. 15. Bravo. 16. Smash. 17. Neidhart. 18. DiBiase. 19. Snuka. 20. Haku. 21. Santana. 22. Honky. 23. Michaels. 24. Martel. 25. Warrior. 26. Barbarian. 27. Hercules. 28. Rude. 29. Hennig. WINNER: Hogan.

DiBiase kicked out Koko before the first 2-minute period ended and when Jannetty came in, you saw some of the best speed and bumps you'll ever see in the WWF. Marty eliminated himself at 1:34 of their exchange by missing a flying tackle. DiBiase cinched the cobra on Jake but Jake posted Ted and went to the offense. Savage's entry gave Ted a breather as the two doubleteamed Jake. Piper evened things up and exploded on Randy & Ted, connecting with a double clothesline. When Hart came in, DiBiase clobbered Savage after a Hitman duck. But Jake was eliminated by a Savage clothesline just as he was about to DDT DiBiase. Dusty came in and immediately went after Savage, eliminating him with a nasty high backflip.

With the second 10 came the first heel-vs.-heel faceoff when Andre tossed out Warlord and Bobby Heenan and Fuji clobbered outside. Appropriately, Dusty and Taylor became the first face-face matchup. Bad News and Piper eliminated each other and brawled back to the dressing room. Andre tossed out Taylor before Bill Eadie and Dusty tied Andre in the ropes. Akeem went after Andre early in his entry. Demolition then doubleteamed Andre and knocked him out at 29:00. Cameras missed Bret Hart go out. Snuka then headbutted Akeem out. Demo then pounded on Snuka. Haku went after Bravo. Tenta knocked out Dusty at 34:25, so there goes my prediction. Tenta then knocked out Ax and went after Haku. All six in-ring guys teamed up to overthrow Tenta.

Warrior started the final 10 eliminating Bravo in 11 seconds. Neidhart, DiBiase, Haku, Warrior, Smash and Snuka were in at this, the 40-minute mark. Warrior and Neidhart started an exchange. Haku canned Smash. Neidhart went out in a pack and Warrior finally clotheslined DiBiase out in 45:52. Hogan came in and cleaned out Snuka and Haku early. Martel eliminated Santana. Hogan knocked out Honky. Sean Michaels went out in 8 seconds and Martel went out to leave Hogan against the Warrior, setting the crowd off. The two bumped chests repeatedly before clotheslining each other. Barbarian comes in to work on both before Rude, who didn't follow the time clock, joins him. As Barb and Rude are about to throw out Warrior, Hogan saves but the momentum eliminates Warrior. Anabolic gets in some blows on Rude & Barb before he leaves. Jesse Ventura insists Hogan caused the Warrior elimination on purpose. Barb was knocked out by Herc but Rude threw out Hernandez, leaving Hogan solo against Rude and Curt Hennig, the final entry. As Hogan tosses Rude to the ropes, Hennig--trying to get in the ring---pulls the ropes, eliminating Rude. Hennig delivered a Perfect-plex to Hogan, who doesn't sell and Hogan Supermans his way to the victory at 59:56. POWERSLAM-PLUS....it had its down moments and I hate yet another event to get Hogan over, as if he needs it, but this was one of the more entertaining WWF events to watch. Too bad the supporting card didn't measure up.

ROYAL RUMBLINGS: Nothing spectacular about the production, just a good, quality, steady effort with another first-rate job of direction during the RUMBLE itself by Kerwin Silfies. Kerwin only missed one elimination and with all the concentration on Andre being tossed out, it was excusable....Tony Schiavone did the best announce job I've ever heard him do because he didn't try to be Vince, just Tony....DiBiase's performance in the RUMBLE was magnificent....I didn't see the need to put Hogan over again. We all know he's the star but there was no choice after you eliminated Warrior and it is an effective way to set up the WM6 main event....The Orlando crowd appeared to have the best enthusiasm of any pay show to date....Other results on Page 2.

ROYAL RUMBLE RUNDOWN

BUSHWACKERS D. ROUGEAUS: This had to be the easiest payday ever for these four. The crowd was hot early but that was all. Luke & Butch clowned and stalled the first 2:16 before a blow was struck. Luke bit Jacques and ref Danny Davis at 3:05. Butch scored a Curly Howard clothesline on Raymond at 4:40. Jacques rallied for some offense at 5:45. The Rougeaus doubleteamed Luke and deposited him outside at 7:00. Crowd began to quiet. Luke took a double throat drop at 9:40. Jacques put on an abdominal stretch at 10:38. But Luke caught Jacques with knees off a dive at 11:15 and tagged Butch, who exploded. All 4 were in at 12:10 and Jimmy Hart was dragged in after trying to trip up the 'Wackers from a battering ram. The Rougeaus double dropkicked the 'Wackers but Butch kicked out on 2. But Butch & Luke battering rammed the Rs and Butch pinned Jacques at 13:35. BOMB-PLUS.

BRUTUS BEEFCAKE DOUBLE DQ VS. LANNY "GENIUS" POFFO: The Stalling Party continues. Brutus revs the crowd and Lanny exits at 1:35. They don't lock up until 2:00. Lanny raked the eyes at 2:49 but Beefcake applied a reverse atomic drop at 3:19. Lanny goes to the fists at 3:50. But Poffo missed a dropkick at 4:20. Brutus crotched Lanny at 5:00 & Poffo exits to chants of "Faggot, faggot..." Lanny scored a near-fall at 6:52 and goes to work with boots. Beefcake finally gets the sleeper at 8:22 but Poffo shakes Brutus into the ref, who is "knocked out." Brutus gets the sleeper again at 9:14, then grabs the scissors and gives Lanny a nasty shear job in the front. But Curt Hennig rolls in at 10:47 and attacks Brutus with a chair. The ref disqualifies both guys for a typical RUMBLE diddle finish. Still, if you take away the clowning, it did have some occasional good wrestling. RESTHOLD-PLUS.

I QUIT MATCH/ RONNIE GARVIN D. GREG VALENTINE: Ronnie goes right out with chops and brawls. After a heavy exchange, Greg exits at 1:45. Ronnie powered a headbutt at 3:45 that dazed both men. Valentine reversed a piledriver at 4:10. Greg applied the figure-4 at 6:25 but Ronnie sticks his tongue out because his knee brace negated the pain. But Greg went for a torture rack at 7:20, then dropped Greg. At 9:00, Ronnie went for an Indian deathlock. The 2 go outside but Valentine reversed another piledriver on the floor at 10:30. Back inside, Ronnie missed a dive and caught his leg on the turnbuckle. After a blow decked both men, Jimmy Hart removed the brace from Garvin, then went for the figure-4 but after 1:10, Ronnie reversed. Greg made it to the rope. Ronnie removes the Hammer Jammer at 15:50. With Valentine tied in the ropes, Jimmy Hart tries to enter, Ronnie tosses him in and goes for the knee brace. With Valentine sneaking up, Ronnie turns, decks Greg with the brace and rolls him into the scorpion. Valentine concedes at 16:48. DRAW-PLUS....Brutal match for the WWF. Not in the same country as Flair-Funk but well-booked and these two old-timers gave all they had.

BROTHER LUV W. SAPPHIRE & SHERRI: At least it wasn't Sherri on color or Robin Smith vs. Judy Martin. After an old hat Bro. Luv act of him answering every question he asked Sapphire, Sherri insulted Sapphire once too often and got popped by Sapphire. Randy Savage rolled to the ring and jumped on Sapphire when Dusty Rhodes came to save. Randy popped Dusty from the top rope but on the floor, Sapphire choked Savage from behind. Luv grabbed Sapphire. Finally, Kingfish Rhodes gets into the ring and shuts up Bigmouth Luv with a body slam and Sapphire slaps Bruce before Dusty tosses him out. Then, we get the music and the dance and all but Amos and Andy. NO RATING OFFERED.

JIM DUGGAN D. BUBBA BOSSMAN (DQ): Nothing but a brawl and Bubba takes the early bump outside at :30 and they go onto the floor at :45 before Duggan is posted but Bubba missed a dive and crashed into the steps. Bubba scored a great enzuguiri and followed with headbutts at 2:00. Then, the Ivan Koloff throat crash at 2:50. Slick choked Duggan with his tie at 4:05. Bubba threw everything at him for 4 minutes until Hacksaw clotheslined Bossman over the top at 7:45. But Bubba rallied and went to the top but missed a dive at 9:10. Both guys went down at 9:30. But after an exchange, Slick handed Bubba the nightstick and he clobbered Duggan at 11:00 to give Hacksaw a DQ win. But Duggan grabbed the 2x4 to clean house of both Slick & Bubba. RESTHOLD...this one showed how good Bubba is because he carried this one and how much Duggan has deteriorated.

BEST LINES - 1. Tony Schiavone, on Sherri Martel: "I don't think I'm attracted to a woman with pineapples above her eyes." 2. Jesse Ventura, on Poffo's haircut: "That haircut makes Gene Okerlund's hair look good." 3. Jesse: "Not even Mickey and Goofy could get in." 4. Schiavone, on Beefacake-Genius: "It's not whether you win or lose but how you cut the hair." 5. Sherri: "There's Dusty here...Dusty there...Dusty everywhere!"

BEST NICKNAME - TONS OF FUN (Ventura on Sapphire).

BEST PICTURES - 1. Hogan-Warrior chest bumps. 2. Jesse with Mickey Mouse ears. 3. Panoramic view of Orlando Arena. 4. Beefcake mocking Lanny's limpwristed walk. 5. Crane camera view of Garvin chopping Valentine. 6. Garvin straining to reverse figure-4. 7. Sapphire slapping Sherri. 8. Bruce Prichard being tossed out by Dusty.

STRONGEST COMMENTS - Jesse: "You've gotta have a big ego to be a great wrestler."

DREADED GLITCH AWARD - Side angle camera loses its iris strength during Beefcake-Poffo.

ALL-CLICHE TEAM - Schiavone, "...pot calling the kettle black."

MATWATCH 25 SCALE

Crowd Enthusiasm	3.6
Announcing	4.3
Quality of Matches	2.3
Production Values	4.0
Overall Excellence of Show	3.2
TOTAL RATING	17.4

Please see SUBSCRIBERS' NOTE on Page 3.

THIS WEEK'S HEADLINES

DANNY SPIVEY INJURED; RECOVERY TIME UNCERTAIN

ATLANTA --- Skyscraper Danny Spivey has been out of action the last week after suffering a series of blackouts. Spivey underwent a series of tests Tuesday and Wednesday of last week to determine the extent of the problem.

Early reports had Spivey suffering from a neck injury that may have him out through May, which would jeopardize a series of Road Warriors-New Skyscrapers matches booked for NWA cards. But World Championship Wrestling executive vice president Jim Herd told MATWATCH last Wednesday test results at the time were not conclusive.

Spivey's partner, Sid Vicious, is still recovering from a punctured lung which has sidelined him since mid-November. Herd said Vicious had portions of the lung stapled. He is not expected back until June at the earliest.

TBS AND CENTER STAGE: WHERE'S THE SEATS, GUYS?

ATLANTA --- Huntsville, Ala., gained a TBS TV taping last week all because of a set of missing seats.

TBS had booked its Center Stage location in downtown Atlanta Jan. 16 for taping of last Saturday's edition of WORLD CHAMPIONSHIP WRESTLING. However, wrestlers arrived at the building that morning to discover the floors ripped out, painting in progress and all seats removed. Whether it was a TBS error of Center Stage mistake in communicating the renovation is unclear.

More than 600 people were in line for the show when the 5 p.m. decision was made to cancel and move the WCW taping to Huntsville the next evening.

NEW JERSEY GOVERNOR REJECTS BILL; VINCE AT SQUARE ONE

TRENTON, N.J. --- Outgoing Gov. Thomas Kean (R) refused to sign a bill deregulating wrestling in New Jersey before leaving office Jan. 16.

The measure, which passed the New Jersey State Assembly by a 44-4 vote, would have abolished a state athletic commission, a move endorsed by Titan Sports. Testimony of Titan officials before legislators last January that WWF outcomes were predetermined made national headlines. Vince McMahon's people argued that the WWF was not a sport and should not be governed by an athletic board.

According to New Jersey law, if the governor fails to sign a pending measure, the bill is killed. Incoming Gov. James Florio has not taken a public stance on the commission. But McMahon will be forced to testify before another term of the legislature before the bill can be reconsidered.

MATWATCH HOTLINE
(205) 826-RING

LPWA CLOSE TO ESPN DEAL

From MATWATCH Staff Reports

Negotiations have reached the final stage of a possible deal which could bring the new Ladies Professional Wrestling Association to ESPN, MATWATCH has learned.

Syndicator/producer Tor Berg, who recently premiered the show on every regional sports cable network in the U.S., is involved in talks said to be "serious." Berg also syndicates an English language version of the New Japan wrestling series but MATWATCH has been told that program is not part of the ESPN deal.

LPWA, which features Medusa Miceli, Misty Blue Simmes, Susan Sexton and a number of new stars, will not be offered to broadcast stations for syndication until fall.

CRASH TV OFFERINGS ON THE LINE AT NATPE CONVENTION IN NEW ORLEANS

NEW ORLEANS --- Despite less than solid ratings, several "crash TV" series were being offered for renewal at the National Association of Television Program Executives convention last week here.

The major push for renewal came from syndicators of AMERICAN GLADIATORS, which is claiming to be the top-rated new weekend syndicated hour of the season. GLADIATORS, which picked up a boost in January by gaining the lead-out slot in New York on WNYW after WWF SUPERSTARS.

In jeopardy was the future of ROLLERGAMES, which has only averaged a 3.2 rating after advertisers were promised a 6 rating for the souped-up version of traditional roller derby. Producer David Sams told BROADCASTING magazine he was not at liberty to discuss the show's future.

The two key new "crash" offerings are WRF EXPRESS, a traditional roller derby show, produced by former PRO WRESTLING THIS WEEK co-host and GLOBAL WRESTLING creator Patrick J. Schaefer; and USWA LIVE! (reported in MATWATCH two weeks ago), a live airing of Jerry Jarrett's USWA WRESTLING from the Dallas Sportatorium Saturdays at 11 a.m. (Eastern time). Syndicator Max Andrews is distributing both series. No reports were available on market clearances.

NOTE TO SUBSCRIBERS

Folks, please check your mailing labels. Unless yours reads FINAL ISSUE, FINAL REMINDER or TRADE, one week has been added to your expiration date. Because of a huge professional workload, I must ask a one-week hiatus for MATWATCH to allow me to finish the 1989 ANNUAL. Yeah, even if Ric Flair jumps to Titan or Hulk Hogan goes to TBS, we won't publish next week but you won't be charged for an issue. Next MATWATCH will be Feb. 5. Thank you for your kind patience.

YOU SAID IT!!!

With the shape that Stampede is in, is the NWA making any efforts to sign Owen Hart? Surely they would want a wrestler of his caliber. Hart-Flair or Hart-Luger matches would be classics, plus he could tag with Sting or Pillman.

Kevin Sullivan is really the best commentator in the NWA. He may not be as funny as Cornette or Funk or Hayes but he clearly gets the angles across and places everything in perspective. What a difference from David Crockett, who always seemed confused and couldn't explain which day of the week it was.

ED VARNER
SEATTLE WA

(FSB: Ed, last spring, a standing offer was made to Owen by Jim Ross, through Owen's father. I agree, he'd be a tremendous addition but some intracompany philosophies now are that it would be better to wait until Brian Pillman establishes a stronger identity over a year before importing Owen.)

When is Ted Turner going to smarten up and fire Ric Flair as booker? He keeps firing all the good managerial talent (Paul E. Dangerously and Gary Hart). If Ric continues as booker, I feel we will have Dusty Disgrace II.

With the Great Muta going back to Japan and the NWA having a tournament to revive the U.S. tag title, who is likely to emerge as the new NWA TV champ and U.S. tag team title holders?

With the death of independent wrestling in the United States (CWA, CWF and Stampede gone) where do you feel the NWA and WWF are headed?

JOHN RIORDAN
BELMONT MA

(FSB: 1. I'm wagering if the NWA does not show trends of an upward turn by April 1 (not a miracle, mind you), The Committee will be gone and a sole booker hired. 2. Expect a lengthy TV reign for Arn Anderson and my forecast for the U.S. belts is on Page 7. 3. No different than as before because the indies have had little impact the last 2-3 years. Only new talent coming into these groups will be much greener because it has had fewer training areas to polish an act.)

As for NO HOLDS: THE MATCH, fortunately, I didn't pay for this---someone sent it to me. (I gave it *3/4) but what can you expect when 3 of the 4 aren't very good wrestlers? The shilling that went on re VIEWER'S CHOICE bordered on obnoxious. Sherri, as usual, provided more amusement, pound for pound, than anyone else on the show.

Early line prediction on the RUMBLE is that Roddy Piper will win---I wouldn't be surprised one way or the other. But he'll be one of the last five in if he's going to win.

TERESA DeMARIE
TUCKAHOE NY

(FSB: T.D., we'll see on Page 1 if the line paid off.)

I'm assigned to the USS Niagara Falls, currently in the Indian Ocean, until I transfer in March to Washington, D.C. Your publication is extremely well-written and informative, even more so to those of us isolated from current events. I especially enjoy your nostalgia articles, since I've lived in the South in Florida, Georgia and the Carolinas since 1965 and followed wrestling.

LCRD DALE RIECK
USS NIAGARA FALLS

(Dale, thanks so much. I'm delighted if our servicemen get a moment of pleasure from MATWATCH. So much so that if any of our regular readers wish to send a gift subscription to any active serviceman or woman, we'll offer a special rate of $5 per 7 issues for that gift order.)

Please allow me to express my commendations on your excellent editorial: "Flair as NWA Booker: Are Critics Jumping the Gun on Ric?" I found the points you brought up to be concise, objective and valid. Columns of this nature typify what MATWATCH stands for and is the standard-bearer for which all other wrestling publications must compete.

K.B. (KLON) HERRON
MELBOURNE FL

Your commentary on Ric Flair's tenure as NWA booker was thought-provoking and I agree that no active wrestler (particularly, the world champion) should book any organization. But why did you just dismiss the name of Bill Watts? Have you fallen into the TBS trap?

MIKE ARNOLD
JACKSONVILLE FL

(FSB: On the contrary, Mike. I quickly passed off Watts in the commentary because I've given up on TBS even giving him a try. Terry Funk, Jim Ross or someone we perhaps have not even fathomed will get a shot as sole booker over Watts. But I still wonder if one day, TBS might not be forced to say, "Well, we've tried everything else. As a last ditch effort, let's see what Bill can do for us.")

**** MATWATCH SHOPPERS NETWORK ****

(VIDEO TAPES)

TAPE UPDATE, the Brian Tramel-edited catalogue of new videos on the market is available for 50 cents from 1806 Self Circle, Apt. #B, Jonesboro AR 72401. It's an entertaining read, too. Get it!!!

DIANE DEVINE, 4150 E. Iowa Ave., Suite 100, Denver CO 80222-3805, is in the market for Ronnie Etchison videos of the past. Also, she'd be interested in tapes with Ed Wiskoski, Mike George and John Tolos.

JACK THIELEPAPE, 809 Salem Lane, Austin TX 78753, wants top-quality copies of the new LPWA show. He can offer all the key cable shows (including the USWA on KTVT), ICW, PWF and Japan tapes in trade).

MICHAEL SLARDINO, P.O. Box 602, Martinsville NJ 08836, is still looking for a trader for the 2-hour USWA Dallas show on KTVT and all of the Dusty Rhodes WWF AMERICANA skits. He can offer NWA, WWF, MSG, AWA, USWA (syndicated), PORTLAND and JAPAN. (Correction: the last name is SALARDINO)

SCOTT DECKER, 46 Dorrance St., Hamden CT 06514, has several Ric Flair videos (Flair vs. Koko B. Ware, vs. Bruiser Brody, vs. Ricky Morton in a cage), along with tapes of the Midnight Express and Tully & Arn. They are 4 hours long and available for $15 each. He also has a long list of tapes from the '80s available for $30 for a 4-hour set. Send a self-addressed, stamped envelope for more info.

(SPECIAL NOTE: I'll do my best to plug a couple of new bulletins in the next issue. Time has been very short to get this issue out on time.)

TV TEMPO

Jan. 15-21

SCALE: PINFALL! - Must See. PILEDRIVER - Excellent. POWERSLAM - Good. DRAW - Average. RESTHOLD - Fair. BOMB - Poor. PLUS - Midscale.

(WWF/USA) - [PRIME TIME]: Jim Neidhart d. RPM Davis; Rick Martel d. Mark Reagan; Sheepwackers d. Tom Burrows/Mike Sharpe; Rick Rude d. Dave Wolfe; Jimmy Snuka d. Brooklyn Brawler; BRO. LUV w. Ultimate Warrior; Powers of Pain d. Reno Riggins/Mike Howell; Dusty Rhodes d. John Justice; Ronnie Garvin d. Pablo Crenshaw; Demolition d. Bolsheviks. RESTHOLD.

(WWF/SYND.) - [CHALLENGE]: Roddy Piper d. Bob Bradley; Andre/Haku win squash but Demolition runs in and chases themoff; Martel d. Reagan; Rhodes d. Justice; Big Bossman d. Bronson; REPLAY: Bravo-Warrior angle; P.O.P. d. Riggins/Horowitz. RESTHOLD. (SPECIAL NOTE: Because of a VCR program error---mine, I didn't get SUPERSTARS. Sorry, gang.)

(SCW) - ANGLE: Randy Rose getting therapy from chiropractor; Billy White d. Alan Horne; Joel Deaton/Kareem Muhammad d. Tony Edwards/Ricky Little Bear; Junkyard Dog d. Jim Bryant; Joyce Grable/Jim Powell d. Invader/Lyrra Starr. BOMB.

(NWA/SYND.) - [WORLD WIDE]: ANGLE: Terry Funk puts cowboy hat on Norman and calls him "Norm the Cowboy;" J-Tex d. Sean Regal/ Ricky Nelson/Pat Rose; RECAP: Arn Anderson d. Great Muta for NWA TV title; FUNK'S GRILL: Lex Luger guests; Anderson d. Robbie Idol; Tom Zenk/Brian Pillman d. Galaxians; SEGMENT: Teddy Long says there are "no new Skyscrapers;" 7-MAN: Road Warrior Animal/Steiners d. Skyscrapers/DOOMED by DQ. RESTHOLD-PLUS.
[NWA PRO]: ANGLE: WOMAN invites Ric Flair to dinner for a "discussion;" Midnight Express d. Italian Stallion/Tommy Rich; Steiners d. Galaxian Davis/Bob Cook; PEDICINO'S NOSE: Joe says he'll be "The Fan's Man" and quit sitting behind the desk; Freebirds d. Paul Drake/Larry Santo; RECAP: Anderson-Muta; Sting d. Samoan Savage. RESTHOLD.

(USWA) - Jeff Gaylord d. Johnny Rand; P.Y. Chu'i d. Chico Torrez; Chris Adams vs. Eric Embry ends in pullapart; USWA VS. TEXAS TITLE: Jerry Lawler d. Kerry Von Erich for both belts when Terrence Garvin tosses Jerry a chair. DRAW.

(CWA) - Stud Stable d. Jeff Jarrett/Matt Borne; ANGLE: Lawler slaps control room switcher who is "playing videos I don't like;" J.J. Funk/Chris Adams/Chico Torrez d. Gaylord/Sheik Braddock/Chu'i. RESTHOLD.

(PORTLAND) - Jeff Warner d. Al Madril when Jonathan Holliday accidentally clubs Madril w. umbrella; Bill Francis vs. Beetlejuice draw; Rip Oliver d. The Equalizer by countout when Grappler refuses to wrestle and sends Equalizer as sub; Billy Jack Haynes vs. Brian Adams in progress as show ends. ANGLES: 1) Ginger tells Scotty the Body she's tired of his humiliations, slaps him, then Veronica comes out, wrestles her to ground & cracks egg over her head; 2) FIESTA GARDEN: Ginger asks match vs. Veronica for next week but they battle on the set. Scotty & Steve Doll pull them apart. DRAW.

(USWA/KTVT) - KEY MATCH: (POLE GUITAR MATCH) Jeff Jarrett d. Billy Travis by DQ when Jerry Lawler attacks Jeff, climbs pole, grabs the guitar and clobbers Jeff on the head, leav- ing him laying. Also: Junkyard Dog debuts. DRAW-PLUS.

(PWF) - Steve Keirn d. Coconut Kid; Frankie Lancaster d. Jim Backlund by DQ; Bodyguard Mark d. Dennis Knight; Hurricane Walker d. Wild Thing; Lou Perez d. Mark Starr by DQ when Ron Slinker runs in; Brickhouse Brown d. Mike Awesome. BOMB.

(ICW) - S.D. Jones d. The Dropout; Tony Atlas d. The Duke; Bob Orton Jr. d. Tom Reed; Krunchski d. Osario; Ray Oddyssey d. Undertaker #1 by DQ; Vic Steamboat/Phil Apollo d. Lethal Weapons by DQ. RESTHOLD-PLUS.

(N. AMERICAN) - Pez Whatley d. The Eliminator; Manny Fernandez d. Rocky King; Nightmares d. Los Lobos; Sheik Weingeroff/Gary Albright d. Cousin Junior/Reno Riggins; The New Fantastics d. Stomper Harris/D-Rock; Sika d. Dixie Rebel. RESTHOLD-PLUS.

(NWA/TBS) - [POWER HOUR]: Norman d. Italian Stallion; WNN: Gordon Solie predicts Ric Flair to retain NWA title vs. Sting; Lex Luger d. Eddie Gilbert; FUNK'S GRILL: Cactus Jack tells Terry he was a good student in school; NWA TV TITLE: Arn Anderson d. Buzz Sawyer by DQ when Dragonmaster, Muta hit the ring. Ole tries to save but Sawyer gives Ole a pulverizer from top rope. POWERSLAM.
[WCW]: Key match: (NWA TV TITLE) Arn Anderson d. Ranger Ross; Kevin Sullivan d. Robbie Idol; REPLAY: Arn d. Muta for TV title on POWER HOUR; Eddie Gilbert d. Galaxian; LOUISVILLE SLUGGER: Corny w. J-Tex; ANGLE: Cactus Jack challenges Steve Williams for next week. DRAW.
[MAIN EVENT]: (8-MAN) Freebirds/Midnight Express d. Rock & Roll Express/Dynamic Dudes; Sting d. Mr. Asia. DRAW-PLUS.

(WVEU SUPERSTARS/ATLANTA) - Sir Samuel F. Kent tells Boni Blackstone he's her new co-host. Boni shows replay of end of previous week when Randall Brown resigns and Sammy announces he'll be co-host. Boni balks. KENT'S CORNER: Sammy shows replay of earlier show where comment made than Kent would become SUPERSTARS co-host if Brown ever left.

(LUCHA LIBRE/W.I.N.) - Leopardo Negro d. El Arano by DQ; Super Raton d. El Tejano; Sergio el Hermoso d. Black Alonzo; Villano Premiero d. Manuel Villalobos; Solar/Halcon d. Diablo Rojo/Rudi Boy. DRAW.

LINES OF THE WEEK

1. Jerry Lawler, USWA: "I wanted to bring you people something you needed for Christmas. But I couldn't wrap up a bathtub, so I didn't bring you anything." 2. Bobby Heenan, PTW: "Sapphire has four outfits, all with polkadots. Why would anyone want to look like the American Fool?" 3. Jim Cornette, TBS: "Arn Anderson's luck's been so bad, he just got a divorce that gave him custody of his mother-in-law." 4. Cornette, TBS, on Saginaw fans: "These

people look like a genetic experiment gone bad." 5. Cactus Jack Manson, TBS: "I'd rather hurt a man than love a woman." 6. Lawler, USWA, to Kerry: "The rear ends on the girls in Tennessee would make these sleazebuckets in Texas look like a sundae-face." 7. Marc Lowrance, USWA, on Lawler-Garvin-Kerry chair angle: "I don't know whether to cry, fight or die." 8. Cactus, TBS: "My teachers told me I was a good student." 9. Terry Funk, TBS, to Cactus: "I hope your priorities aren't my priorities, looking like you do." 10. Heenan, PTW: "Manuel Noriega---the only guy you can trust in Florida!"

11. Cornette, TBS, on Eddie Gilbert: "He came out like Donna Summer wearing a Hank Williams Jr. jacket." 12. Sir Samuel F. Kent, WVEU SUPERSTARS: "Boni, I'm gonna make you forget all about Joe Pedicino, John Michaels....I've already forgotten 'em." 13. Jim Ross-Cornette-Kevin Sullivan, TBS: (KS) "You do it just like Geraldo, Jim (Ross)." (JC) "I'd like to see him with a broken nose." (JR) "I have suspenders." 14. Cactus, TBS: "Onions are kinda like owl. I like owl." 15. Funk, WWW, on railing of Norman: "The foreman at the Double Cross ranch wouldn't like this. He'd have too much fence-fixing to do." 16. Cornette, TBS, on Norman & Stallion: "Take their IQs, multiply them by 2 and you still wouldn't get 3 digits." 17. Steve Beverly, WALE Radio: "I fully expect Andre & Haku to lose the WWF tag belts to George Foreman & Chuck Wepner." 18. Kent, SCW, on Randy Rose's necktie: "We'd get one for Ted Allen but he has no neck." 19. Heaven Lee, SCW: "Anybody could have their hands full of Joyce Grable---there's so much of her." 20. Tony Atlas, ICW: "There's no champion that has more prestige and more wives." 21. Tony Rumble, ICW: "The Lethal Weapons have more dimensions than THE TWILIGHT ZONE."

STRONGEST COMMENTS - 1. Ross, TBS: "I never knew Cornette was bilingual. I always thought he was bi... I won't say it." 2. Cornette, TBS: "Saginaw, Michigan---a great place if you like being on a penal farm."

QUESTION OF THE WEEK - Cornette, TBS: "Did you ever notice the resemblance between Manuel Noriega & Arn Anderson's uncle Gene?" (But, Corny, if Ole & Arn were "brothers," doesn't that mean Ole is Arn's uncle? Many past NWA shows suggest the two are "cousins.")

ENGLISH LESSON - 1. Ray Candy, SCW, to Tim Dix, on unmasking of Nightmares: "You think I KNOWED that?" 2. Dix, SCW, on JYD: "He COME out to `Another One Bites the Dust.'" 3. Atlas, ICW: "There is no other champion that has DID more." 4. Dennis Condrey, ICW: "I ain't never seen a horse that couldn't be RODE or a man that couldn't be THROWED."

BEST PICTURES - 1. USWA, Garvin passing chair to Lawler & Lawler loading glove. 2. TBS, Anderson-Sawyer match. 3. WWF, Demolition run-in on Andre/Haku. 4. SCW, Billy Starr bashing Ted Allen with title belt. 5. WWW, Funk mimicking Chris Cruise.

NICKNAMES OF THE WEEK - 1. THE PERRY WHITE OF PROFESSIONAL WRESTLING (Ross on Dennis Brent). 2. THE MODERN DAY MORON (T. Garvin on Kerry). 3. THE FLYING DOORKNOB (Heenan on Jimmy Snuka).

BLOOPER AWARD - TBS, for promo of Arn Anderson facing Dick Murdoch for TV title when Ranger Ross appeared.

BOO AWARDS - 1. WWF, for not editing out blasts at cable industry on PRIME TIME <u>after</u> a settlement over ROYAL RUMBLE had been reached. 2. PWF, for attempting to pass off a weekly hour of trash as television. No wonder it can only get on cable access channels in most towns.

TUBE TALK

We made a trip over the weekend, had the timer set and promptly failed to get all of WCW taped (we got the last 30 minutes) and WWF SUPERSTARS, so our apologies for not having full details in TEMPO....One note on the recent ICW tapings: lighting is much improved....Expect another NWA on-air name to drop out soon....Another shuffle of NWA announcers is due soon: expect Chris Cruise to be shifted to NWA PRO to team with Michael Hayes, Jim Ross to return to WORLD WIDE with Terry Funk and for NWA MAIN EVENT, Lance Russell & Bob Caudle take over the syndie version. Gordon Solie may move to the lead host role on NWA POWER HOUR but that isn't firm.

Commercials with Lex Luger and the Road Warriors endorsing the ROOS line of shoes and sportswear began this past weekend on NWA shows....When Lawler bashed Jeff Jarrett with a guitar on USWA, that was the final conversion of Jerry to heel and I wonder how Memphis fans seeing the show regarded it....A number of people calling Larry Katz's WALE call-in show in Baltimore Saturday night spoke highly of the NWA card at the Arena but repeated callers said they felt Flair was "off" in his match vs. Luger. Our friend from Philly, Joel Goodheart was a guest.

Other than a hook for TV ratings sweeps, I don't know why the NWA is reviving the U.S. tag belts. It's another assumption that fans are too stupid to remember Eddie Gilbert & Rick Steiner never lost the belts. Or too stupid to ask why it took the NWA since last May to have a tourney to fill them....Samuel Kent is going to be fun as Boni Blackstone's co-host on the Atlanta SUPERSTARS block after he has a few weeks to get a rhythm and learn to jell. But not even Sammy's good humor can save what is a painful SCW show to watch....Gary Cubeta is producing a new series for satellite dish owners, which features a segment on wrestling. We'll have details on how to receive it next week....If nothing happens, we'll be at The Omni Friday night and have a report in the issue week after next. FSB.

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DON'T MAKE BOOK: Almost everyone I know is taking it to the bank that Sting will win the NWA world belt Feb. 25. This may be either a plant or legit but I've heard increasing talk there may not be a title change then. Apparently, there are some disagreements within TBS over whether the belt should progress to Lex Luger first. Then again, all of this may be what people want us to think.

HULKING IN THE RAIN: Hulk Hogan drew 6,000 to the Omni Saturday night prior to the ROYAL RUMBLE. I was told about two-thirds were folks who don't attend NWA shows and the key for TBS is to figure out how to convert even half of those.

U.S. TAG BELTS: I'm figuring Brian Pillman & Tom Zenk, simply because as newcomers, it would be their first belts and those straps have been a kind of first-time title in the past (Barry Windham, The Fantastics, i.e.). If not them, then probably the Midnights.

THE REST OF THE STORY: As of deadline, no more matches were finalized for WRESTLE WAR '90 than the first two (incredible to me that with on-air promotion already going and only four weeks to show date, a card wasn't settled). But a booking meeting Monday in Greenville, S.C., was to get the rest of the card determined.

NO SURPRISES: Unless something unplanned occurs, do not expect any newcomers (Big Van Vader, Jushin Riger, i.e.) on the WW'90 show. Jim Herd told me last week the booking committee didn't want Vader (although I'm told The Committee may not get its way later in the year). One report I haven't confirmed is that El Gigante (Jorge Gonzales) is suffering from diabetes and can't make the show.

DANGER WATCH: Paul E. Dangerously has a March 1 start date with the WWF, no ifs, ands, or buts, if he wants it but he hasn't accepted yet.

EDDIE WATCH: Eddie Gilbert was to meet last Thursday with Herd on whether he'll pick up his option year with the NWA but the meeting was postponed.

CWF WATCH: The plan to revive CWF remains on indefinite hold from David Woods and a big key is whether Gilbert renews with the NWA. If he does, expect the entire plan to fall apart and Jerry Jarrett's USWA will probably inherit the remaining time periods now being filled by CWF reruns.

MISSY WATCH: And one more item in the Gilbert family, Missy Hyatt is now expected to assume the role of NWA MAIN EVENT, TBS edition, co-host with Jim Ross effective with the show that airs either next week or the one after.

RATINGS RAP: Ratings for both cable and syndication were not available this past week, hence, no RATINGS RAP. But expect a double or triple helping in the next regular issue in 2 weeks.

HOW MUCH, YOU SAY???: Published reports estimate the settlement comedian Richard Belzer received at $250,000 for dropping his case against Hulk Hogan, Mr. T & Titan Sports for the 1985 incident involving Hogan releasing Belzer from a hold and the comedian bleeding. But two reliable sources say the figure was really closer to $1.5 million. Titan officials were sweating that Hogan may have to embarrass himself on the witness stand.

MATWATCHINGS

A BOOK?: Belzer's attorney, Norman Roy Grutman---Jim Bakker's former counsel who later defended PTL against a Bakker attempt to regain control of the empire---intends to write a book about Titan Sports and you can bet it won't play into Vince's angles.

NATPE NEWS: Speaking of Hogan, the newsmagazine HARD COPY offered a feature on the program-buying at the NATPE convention and the only wrestler mentioned was Hogan, despite several syndicators attempts at wrestling sales.

THE DICKENS, YOU SAY?: Curt Hennig & Lanny Poffo on the syndicated REGIS & KATHIE LEE Jan. 15. When an audience member asked "The Genius" if he was gay, he answered, "I'm heterosexual, married and have a child, I'll have you know."

NETWORKING: USWA and NWA WORLD WIDE have been hardest hit by the new syndex rules forcing cable programming blackouts. In many areas, cable operators have avoided the problem of blackouts by dropping some superstations altogether. KTVT/Dallas, which airs USWA Saturday nights, has been dropped in 350,000 homes, 45% of its total viewing. WPIX/New York, which still has 1.1 million subscribers, has lost 300,000 homes since Jan. 1, thanks to syndex.

FOX KIDDIES: The biggest threat to some TV wrestling shows this fall comes from the FOX network. All 126 FOX affiliates, many of which offer syndicated wrestling now on Saturday mornings, have committed to challenge the three major networks with a 3-hour kid block from 8-11 a.m. Saturdays beginnning this fall. Some wrestling shows are simply going to be frozen out if the plan takes shape.

HOW DOES IT HURT?: Our friend Dennis Coraluzzo tells us the veto of the New Jersey wrestling deregulation bill (see Page 3) is a major setback for Vince McMahon on one major front. "If Vince lobbies again next year, he'll face a new governor facing a tight money situation. The athletic commission probably makes about $500,000 a year at the least from wrestling shows for the state treasury. The state is not in a position to start cutting revenue sources."

ONE YEAR AGO IN MATWATCH. . .

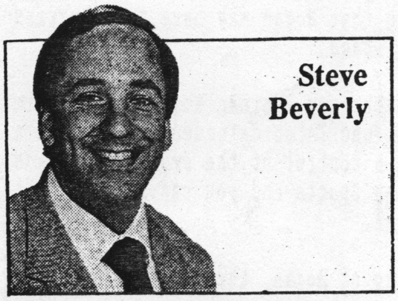
---Ricky Steamboat returns to the NWA in a dramatic tag match, teamed with Eddie Gilbert against Ric Flair & Barry Windham. Steamboat pins Flair for the upset win.

---Terry Gordy agrees to between-Japan dates with CWF.

---Buy-rate for SUPER CLASH III announced at 0.5%.

---PRO WRESTLING THIS WEEK moves to FNN/SCORE.

---Kendall Windham turns NWA heel. Brian Pillman mentioned as possible new NWA tag partner for Dennis Condrey. Ronnie Garvin begins doing WWF jobs for Greg Valentine.



Steve Beverly

If we could graph nationwide attention to pro wrestling, probably 1985 would be its peak point. Oh, more money has been made in calendar years since. But overall media awareness, personality growths and healthy promotions were never greater than in '85.

Yet, five years later, two words remain profanities to veterans of the wrestling industry: Eddy Mansfield. And all because of ABC.

If you've only recently clicked onto the ring, it's been---hard to believe---five years since Eddy, the former "Continental Lover," exposed the business with ex-wrestler Jim Wilson on a 20/20 newsmagazine piece which is a collectors item today for hardcore fans.

Mansfield demonstrated how wrestling was worked, showed and described blading and revealed that every match he'd ever had contained a predetermined outcome. The hue and cry inside the business was such that the sport set an all-time hhigh for ticket sales in the same year.

Eddy had hoped to write a book (titled, oddly enough, "No Holds Barred") which never materialized. He ended up producing a "Secrets of Pro Wrestling" videotape that ended up on low-budget counters with offerings from Goodtimes Video.

Two weeks ago, Eddy was back in his hometown of Columbus, Ga., and visited briefly with WRBL-TV anchorman Sam Hall, whose award-winning expose with Mansfield predated the 20/20 piece.

"Eddy looked good and he's remarried," said Hall. "He says he doesn't keep up much with what's going on in `the business'." Mansfield told Hall, however, that financing is nearly complete for a feature version of his autobiographical story. Tenatively titled "Chokehold," actor Ned Beatty has reportedly agreed to star as a promoter and Ronald F. Maxwell ("Little Darlings," "The Night the Lights Went Out in Georgia") will direct. Plans are for principal photography to begin this spring in Jacksonville, Fla.

A check with the American Film Marketing Association does not find the project listed with a major studio, so it will be strictly an independent production, meaning tougher sledding getting onto major screens. The only other role mentioned is ex-NFL star Larry Csonka as a wrestler. We're not certain if Mansfield will play himself.

Mansfield has lived in New York the last four years. At one point, he sold securities but has spent the last two years learning film production in commercials and short films.

"I think Eddy really thought the 20/20 piece were going to open a lot of doors for him," said Hall, "but he's found the entertainment business is as tough or tougher than wrestling."

In July 1985, I interviewed Mansfield for a week-long series on WWAY-TV in Wilmington, N.C. Eddy grew up about six blocks from my childhood home in Columbus. After reminiscing a bit, Eddy related enough stories about promoters and drug and alcohol problems of specific wrestlers that would wind me up in a libel trial without further proof. He had a bitter pill toward promoters but Eddy insisted he had no grudge against other wrestlers and wished them well.

"I'm glad for the success some of them are having now," said Mansfield. "But it's a minority that are making big money. I made my choice because I don't want my life being controlled any longer by promises promoters don't keep."

For my series, I went to Fayetteville to get the other side from NWA wrestlers. In the words of Magnum T.A., who had done jobs for Mansfield when he was still just Terry Allen: "It's a shame when a guy who couldn't cut it has to spout off a bunch of sour grapes on national TV just to get attention."

When told of Magnum's reaction, Eddy replied, "I'm real happy for Terry. I'm happy he's doing well and I hope he goes all the way. But I wonder if Terry would tell how his mother put a second mortgage on their family home so he could pay a guy named Buzz Sawyer $25,000 to teach him how to wrestle." Magnum didn't but the response was classic Mansfield.

"Chokehold" may be one of these projects lively discussed which never sees the marquee of your local theatre. But if it does, it's not saying much to suggest it will have more bite than "No Holds Barred." Someone I know well in the business had the macabre thought, "If it's a genuine expose of the business, somebody will try to kill Eddy before it's released." Maybe a few years ago when independent promoters still had some clout. Only difference now is: too many people have exposed their own business in the last year. Therein, more than studio backing may be the biggest problem with a film like "Chokehold." Truth of the matter is: what will it tell us that most of America doesn't already know.

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